GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1828
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2016
Neutrino Observatory
Gopal Dr. K.;Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the present status of the project related to the India based Neutrino Observatory(INO);

(b)the time limit, budget, sponsoring scheme and the objectives of the projects undertaken in the observatory;

(c)whether the Government proposes to set up additional observatories for nuclear physics research and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)whether the Government is looking into the issues that stalled the construction of the observatory and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)The work at the India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) site at Pottipuram is held up because of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) pending before the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court. The bench has asked for a submission of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board clearance which has been sought by INO in May 2015 which is not received. As of now the 26 hectare site has been fenced, a large water storage tank installed and a water pipeline laid from a river source about 20 kms away. The approach road including a bridge and some road widening and strengthening work is only partially complete and halted due to the above stay order. The prototype detector lab at the Inter Institutional Centre for High Energy Physics (IICHEP) Madurai is subject to reclassification of land by the Tamil Nadu Government.

(b)The project has been sanctioned at a total overall cost of `1583.05 crore with a schedule of completion by December 2019. This is a collaborative effort between DAE and Department of Science and Technology (DST). The cost of the main detector will be shared equally by DAE and DST.

The objectives of the laboratory are :

?To study the properties of the fundamental particle, the neutrino, using cosmic ray produced "atmospheric neutrinos".

?Develop skilled human resources for carrying out front ranking experimental programmes in the area of particle and nuclear physics.

?Development of state of the art particle detectors for basic science and societal application including medical imaging.

(c)No Sir.

(d) Yes Sir, the project proponents are constantly in touch with the Tamil Nadu Govt. authorities for getting the above clearances at an early date.

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